

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-20. (Canceled)

Claim 21. (Currently Amended) A cable distribution system, comprising:

a plurality of service modules associated with a headend configured to receive signals from a plurality of video sources and further configured to multiplex certain ones of the signals together to create one or more multiplexed channel signals, wherein each service module is configured to receive one or more of the multiplexed channel signals; and

one or more receiver/decoders within each service module, the one or more receiver/decoders configured to receive and decode the one or more multiplexed channel signals, wherein each receiver/decoder is configured to select one or more, but not all, of the certain ones of the signals from one or more of the multiplexed channel signals so as to output video channels, and further configured to provide the video channels to an output interface multiplexer in the service module, the output interface multiplexer configured to provide a same combined signal to each of a plurality of interface units located at each of a plurality of different customer locations, the interface unit at each respective customer location corresponding to the receiver/decoder that received/decoded the one or more multiplexed channel signals and that output the video channels;

wherein the same combined signal includes at least a first user-selected video channel modulated onto a first user channel on a first frequency band uniquely corresponding to a first user interface unit, the same combined signal further including a second user-selected video channel modulated onto a second user channel on a second frequency band uniquely corresponding to a second user interface unit.

Claim 22. (Canceled).

Claim 23. (Previously Presented) The cable distribution system of claim 21, wherein each of a respective service module of the plurality of service modules corresponds to one or more interface units of the plurality of interface units, each of the plurality of interface units arranged in a loop through relationship with respect to each of the respective service modules and wherein a selected output frequency of each receiver/decoder in a given service module is different from a selected output frequency of any other receiver/decoder in the given service module, wherein each of the plurality of interface units is configured to provide only a selected one of the video channels in the combined signal to a video displaying apparatus.

Claim 24. (Previously Presented) The cable distribution system of claim 21, wherein the headend is a local headend located in a same building or set of buildings as the customer locations.

Claim 25. (Previously Presented) The cable distribution system of claim 24, wherein each of the plurality of service modules associated with the headend is further associated with a master headend located remotely from the building or set of buildings, the master headend configured to provide video channels at selected frequencies to the local headend.

Claim 26-27. (Canceled).

Claim 28. (Previously Presented) The cable distribution system of claim 21, wherein each interface unit is capable of processing the combined signal without a frequency converter.

Claim 29. (Previously Presented) The cable distribution system of claim 21, wherein each service module is configured to utilize a plurality of same predetermined frequencies as each other service module of the plurality of service modules.

Claim 30. (Previously Presented) The cable distribution system of claim 21, wherein each interface unit is configured to pass information, including channel selection information, back upstream to an associated service module.

Claim 31-33. (Canceled)

Claim 34. (Currently Amended) A cable distribution system, comprising:

a plurality of service modules associated with a headend configured to receive signals from a plurality of video sources and further configured to multiplex certain ones of the signals to create one or more multiplexed channel signals, wherein each service module associated with a plurality of customers and configured to receive one or more of the multiplexed channel signals; and

one or more receiver/decoders within each service module, each receiver/decoder being configured to:

select from the one or more multiplexed channel signals, one or more, but not all, of the certain ones of the signals so as to output one or more video channels; and

provide the one or more video channels to an output interface multiplexer in the service module, the output interface multiplexer configured to provide a same combined signal including the one or more video channels to each of a plurality of interface units respectively located at each of a plurality of customer locations, wherein a predetermined output frequency of the one or more

receiver/decoders is different from a predetermined output frequency of any other receiver/decoder in a same service module;

wherein the same combined signal includes at least a first user-selected video channel modulated onto a ~~first user channel~~ on a first frequency band uniquely corresponding to a first user interface unit, the same combined signal further including a second selected video channel modulated ~~onto a second user channel~~ on a second frequency band uniquely corresponding to a second user interface unit.

Claim 35. (Previously Presented) The cable distribution system of claim 34, wherein the headend is a local headend located in a building or set of buildings where the plurality of customer locations are situated.

Claim 36. (Previously Presented) The cable distribution system of claim 35 wherein the plurality of service modules associated with the headend are further associated with a master headend located remotely from the building or set of buildings, the master headend configured to provide video channels at selected frequencies to the local headend.

Claim 37. (Previously Presented) The cable distribution system of claim 35, wherein each service module of the plurality of service modules is located at a different location

throughout the building or set of buildings relative to other service modules of the plurality, wherein at least one service module is located on each floor of the building or set of buildings.

Claim 38-40. (Canceled)

Claim 41. (Previously Presented) The cable distribution system of claim 34, wherein each interface unit is capable of processing the combined signal without a frequency converter.

Claim 42. (Canceled).

Claim 43. (Previously Presented) The cable distribution system of claim 34, wherein the interface unit passes information that includes channel selection information back upstream to an associated service module.

Claim 44. (Previously Presented) The cable distribution system of claim 21, wherein the headend is a local headend that is configured to receive a signal from a master headend.

Claim 45. (Previously Presented) The cable distribution system of claim 21, wherein the headend is a local headend located in a building or set of buildings where the customer locations are situated; and further including a second headend located at a location remote from the building or set of buildings, the second headend configured to provide video channels at selected frequencies to the local headend.

Claim 46 – 47. (Canceled).

Claim 48. (Currently Amended) The cable distribution system of claim 34, further including a separate fixed frequency bandpass filter located at each customer location for each interface unit, the bandpass filter ~~configured to substantially prevent video channels other than a selected video channel associated with that interface unit to pass through to the interface unit.~~ at the customer location of the first user interface unit configured to allow the first frequency band uniquely corresponding to the first user interface unit to pass through to the first interface unit while preventing the second frequency band uniquely corresponding to the second user interface unit from passing through to the first user interface unit.

Claim 49 (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a service module associated with a headend, the headend configured to receive signals from a plurality of video sources and further configured to multiplex certain ones of the signals together to create one or more multiplexed channel signals, wherein the service module is configured to receive one or more of the multiplexed channel signals; and

one or more receiver/decoders within the service module, the one or more receiver/decoders configured to receive and decode the one or more multiplexed channel signals, wherein each receiver/decoder is configured to select one or more, but not all, of the certain ones of the signals from one or more of the multiplexed channel signals so as to output video channels, and further configured to provide the video channels to an output interface multiplexer in the service module, the output interface multiplexer configured to provide a same combined signal to each of a plurality of interface units located at each of a plurality of different customer locations, the interface unit at each respective customer location corresponding to the receiver/decoder that received/decoded the one or more multiplexed channel signals and that output the video channels;

wherein the same combined signal includes at least a first user-selected video channel modulated onto a first user channel on a first frequency band uniquely corresponding to a first user interface unit, the same combined signal further including a second user-selected video channel modulated onto a second user channel on a second frequency band uniquely corresponding to a second user interface unit.

Claim 50 (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 49, wherein each of the one or more receiver/decoders are included in one or more corresponding user control circuits.

Claim 51. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein each of the one or more corresponding user control circuits correspond to one or more user interface units.

Claim 52. (New) The apparatus of claim 51, wherein each of the one of more corresponding user control circuits further includes a service interface multiplexer (MUX), a communication service module, and a modulator.

Claim 53. (New) The apparatus of claim 49, wherein the first and the second frequency bands are assigned to the respective first and second user interface units based on a distance of the first user interface unit to the service module relative to a distance of the second user interface unit to the service module.